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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHLM #0836 1420824
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 220824Z MAY 06
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3421
INFO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 1197
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9647
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 6097
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 9206
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 4132
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 2981

UNCLAS COLOMBO 000836

SIPDIS

STATE FOR IO/T AND HHS

SENSITIVE, SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [TBIO](#) [WHO](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: World Health Assembly: Smallpox Demarche

REF: STATE 71569

¶1. (SBU) Econoff and EconFSN met on May 19 with Dr. H.A.P. Kahandaliyanage, Director General of Health, Ministry of Healthcare and Nutrition, regarding reftel. Kahandaliyanage appeared to agree with various arguments for retaining the smallpox virus. He promised that he would discuss the issue with Minister of Health Nimal Siripala De Silva, who will head Sri Lanka's delegation to the assembly, and Dr. Paba Palihawadana, Epidemiology Unit Director, who will also be part of the Sri Lankan delegation. Kahandaliyanage indicated that he always considers the USG viewpoint in such matters. During the discussion, Kahandaliyanage noted "there should be virus stocks" but stopped short of endorsing the USG position.

¶2. (SBU) COMMENT: AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH KAHANDALIYANAGE POST BELIEVES THAT THE SRI LANKAN DELEGATION WILL SUPPORT THE US POSITION. NONETHELESS, WE SUGGEST THAT THE US DELEGATION DISCUSS THIS MATTER AGAIN WITH SRI LANKA'S DELEGATION AT THE ASSEMBLY. END COMMENT

ENTWISTLE